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side. Such a vacuum would also account for the violent rush of the air through the window at the rere of the house. On the whole, this phenomenon seems to resemble, or present in many points the same conditions as produce a water-spout at sea; but I am unwilling to add to the length of this letter by forming conjectures as to its cause, or suppositions which would account for all I have described. This I leave to better judges, confining myself at present to as accurate a detail of the facts as I could collect or procure.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

DANIEL GRIFFIN, M. D.

*The Rev. Charles Graves, F.T.C.D.*

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Rev. Humphrey Lloyd and Robert Mallet, Esq., made some remarks on the probable causes of some of the phenomena noticed by Dr. Griffin.

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The Rev. William Reeves, D.D., exhibited an ancient deed, written on goat-skin, being a grant of certain lands in Islay, from Mac Donnell of the Isles to Brian Vicar Magee. Although a Scottish record, it is strictly conformable to the rules of Irish orthography and construction, showing that the peculiarities which now characterize the Scotch dialect of the Gaelic did not exist in 1408, the date of this instrument. The following copy has been carefully made, and a literal translation appended.

On ainnm De Amen.

Ataampe mac Doínnail ag bponnağ 7 caðairc én mairg  
 beğ go leit ðpearann uaim pðein 7 om oigrib do ðlipian ðicairpe  
 mhağaoð 7 ba oigrib na ðiağ go pìopðuiğe puçám, ap fon a  
 ðeigðeipðire ðam pðein ağar ðom aðair pòðam; 7 po air  
 ðunnrağ 7 ap ðoinğiolł go ccaðpauð pe pðein ağar iaðpan  
 ðamra 7 ðom oigrib am ðiağ go blaððanaiail ceitpe ba ion-

márbéa éum mo éige, aḡar aḡcár naé mbiaó na baé rin ap faḡail  
 beapair an brian huar aḡar a oigrioz bámpa aḡar dom oig-  
 riú am diaiḡ ba márg 7 bá píct marḡ ap ron na mbo céadna  
 huar. Aḡar ap na habaruib ceadna acampre dom éeangal  
 féin 7 aḡ ceangal moigrioz um diaiḡ zo veipioḡ an beaéa na  
 fearainn rin moille le na btopéuib mapa aḡar cípe do fearaí  
 aḡar do éoinnmeil don mbriain biocaire Mhaḡaoó huar do  
 féin 7 ba oigriú na diaiḡ zo ríopéuiḡe aḡar zo veipeaḡ an  
 beaéa: aḡar ap iab ro na fearainn rin do éuḡar do fein aḡar  
 bá oigriú na diaiḡ zo ríopéuiḡe ruéain; [eadon], baile biorpa,  
 Maéaire leapḡa riaboiḡe, Cionnḡpaḡa, ḡraptol, Tocamol,  
 Wreggoḡe; Da ḡleann abrtol, Cpacobur, Copnubur, aḡar baile  
 Néachtain. Aḡar ionnur zo mbiaó briḡ neapre aḡar láibi-  
 peacé aḡ an mbriontanar ro veipiom don mbrian chuap aḡar  
 bá oigriú na diaíó, ceanglam aríḡ me féin 7 moigrioz mo diaiḡ  
 zo ríopéuiḡe an cunpaḡ 7 an briontanar ro do feara 7 do éuin-  
 beil ap buil don mbrian peirípaite 7 ba oigriú na diaíó zo ve-  
 píoḡ an beaéa le cur mo láime 7 mo feala annro ríor a laéair  
 na briaḡainn ro ríor; aḡar an peirpaí lá do míḡ na bealtuine  
 aḡar an bliadanpa do bpeit Crioḡta Mile ceitri ceab aḡar a  
 hoét.

Mac Domnáill,

✠ ✠ ✠

<sup>a</sup>  
 Eon + Mc Domnáill  
 coímapéa

<sup>a</sup>  
 Pat: + Mc briuin  
 coímapéa  
 Fepḡaor Mc beaéa

<sup>a</sup>  
 Aodh + Mc Key  
 coímapéa

In the name of God. Amen.

I, Mac Donnell, am granting and giving eleven marks and  
 a half of land from myself and from my heirs, to Brian Bicaire\*  
 Mag Aodh, and to his heirs after him for ever and ever, for his  
 good services to myself and to my father before me; and this

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\* The Irish form of *Vicar*.

on condition and covenant that he and they shall give yearly to me and to my heirs after me, four cows fit to be slaughtered, for my house; and in case that these cows are not to be had the above Brian and his heirs shall give to me, and to my heirs after me, two marks and two score marks in lieu of the same cows aforesaid. And for the same causes I am binding myself and binding my heirs after me, to the end of existence, to maintain and defend these lands, together with their fruits of sea and land, for the above Brian Bicaire Mag Aodh, for himself, and for his heirs after him, in perpetuity, and to the end of existence. And these are the lands aforesaid which I have given to himself and to his heirs after him in perpetuity [viz.], Baile-Biorra, Machaire-learga-riabhoghe, Cionntragha, Graf-tol, Tocam-ol, Wreggoge,\* the two Glenapstols,† Cracobus, and Baile-Neachtain. And that this grant may have force, strength, and validity, which I give unto the above Brian and to his heirs after him, I bind myself again and my heirs after me, to maintain and support in perpetuity this covenant and grant, for the aforesaid Brian, and for his heirs after him, to the end of existence, by putting my hand and my seal here below, in the presence of these witnesses below, and on the sixth day of the month of May, and in the year of the birth of Christ, one thousand four hundred and eight.

MAC DONNELL.

X X X

his  
JOHN + Mc DONNELL.  
mark.

his  
PAT + MAC BRIAN.  
mark.

FARREES MAC BEATHA.

his  
HUGH + MAC KEY.†  
mark.

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\* This word is written in cursive hand in the original, and it is hard to determine whether it is *Wreggoge* or *Weeggoge*.

† This name signifies 'Glenn of the Apostles.'

‡ Here the name Mac Aodh assumes a phonetic form. It is to be observed,

The name Mac Aodh signifies ‘Son of Hugh,’\* and is pronounced in Scotland, as well as the south of Ireland, according to the provincial sound of the syllable Aodh, *Mackay*; but in the middle of Ireland, *Mackew*; and in Ulster, *Magee*. The family which bore it was akin to the Mac Donnells, and was commonly known as “Macgee of the Rinns of Islay.”† When the Mac Donnells sought a permanent footing in Ireland, the Magees followed their fortunes, and obtained a settlement on the north-east coast of the county of Antrim. The tradition of the family, as stated by John Magee, the owner of the present document, is, that his ancestor, John Magee, who was cousin to Somhairb Boy Mac Donnell, came to Ireland with that chieftain to assist him in wresting the Route and Glynns from the Mac Quillins, and that, having rendered important services to him at the battle of Aura, he received, as a reward, the four quarterlands of Ballyukin, and two adjacent to Aura, in the parish of Culfeightrim, which continued in the possession of the family until the time of the present representative’s grandfather.

It may be observed, also, that the peninsula on the coast of Antrim, near Larne, which was formerly called *Rinn Shevny*, having been occupied by the Magees in the early part of the sixteenth century, exchanged its ancient name for ‘Mac Guyes-Isle,’ or ‘Island Magee,’ the latter of which it bears at the present day.

The Mac Donnell who made the above grants was Donald, Lord of the Isles, who died in 1427.‡ His next brother, John of Islay, was ancestor of the Earls of Antrim.§

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however, that though the names Mac Gee and Mackay are of the same origin, the families so called were perfectly distinct.

\* Mak-Kye, i. Filius Hugonis.—Collectan. de Reb. Alban. p. 27. From Hugh Mac Donnell of Sleate, his son, John, and grandson, Donald, derived their patronymic of *Hughson*, a name now written *Hewson*. See Douglas, *Peerage of Scotland*, p. 363, a.

† Collectan. de Reb. Alban. pp. 297, 310.

‡ Douglas, *Peerage of Scotland*, p. 360.

§ Ibid., p. 359.

The lands which are recited in the grants are situate in the parish of Kildalton, on the south-east of the island of Islay, and most of the names still appear upon the county map. They are not Celtic in their form, and the writer of *Parochial Memoirs*, in the old *Statistical Account of Scotland*, observes, "All the farms round this fort [of Cheunn-Outh] have Danish names, such as Kennibus, Assibus, Kelibus, Lirebus, and Cragabus."\* In reference to some other names, he adds, "There is, in the other end of the parish, the remains of an old church, at a place known by the name of Kilnaughtan. The nearest farm to this is called Baille Vicar, or the Vicar's Town; and there is joined to this farm the Clerk's *patch*, which is now of some value. There is, at the distance of four miles, a farm called Baile Naughtan."†

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Rev. Charles Graves, D.D., exhibited rubbings of some monuments in the county of Kerry, presenting crosses, along with Ogham inscriptions. He stated, as the result of a careful examination of all the monuments of this kind seen by him in Kerry, that there were no grounds for the assertion that the crosses had been inscribed at a later period than the Ogham characters.

When a square stone is formed of a stratified material, the grain will be different in two of its adjacent faces; one face may also be more exposed to the action of the weather than another. These circumstances are, in many cases, sufficient to account for the fact, that some parts of an inscription are better preserved than the rest.

He also stated that the peculiar mode of execution observed in many of the inscriptions, namely, by punching rather than cutting, is common to the crosses and the Ogham strokes.

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\* *Statistical Account of Scotland*, by Sir J. Sinclair, vol. xi. p. 292.

† *Ibid.*, p. 295.